

C O U N C I L O F E U R O P E

1. The Secretary General, Dr. Franz Karasek, has retired. He writes to us: "As I prepare to vacate my post as Secretary General of the Council of Europe, I wish to express to you the immense satisfaction I have had in being able to collaborate during my years of office with your Organisation as a body enjoying consultative status within the Council of Europe". We remember that Dr. Karasek accepted the patronage of the Kerkrade conference in November 1980 for which we remain grateful. Our best wishes accompany him in his retirement.
2. Our fellow-member Roger Dirrig in Strasburg has represented our Society in a sectorial meeting of the NGO's on Oct. 2nd, 1984; the themes of the meeting were: local development, voluntary organisations, innovations in adult education. He has also taken part in the general informative meeting of the NGO's on Oct. 3d, 1984. We remain thankful to him for his exertions on behalf of the Society.
3. Mr. Dirrig could not be present at the meeting of the NGO's on May 8th, 1984. Then eight new members of the Liaison Committee were elected. The Chairman shall henceforth be elected by the Plenary Conference, which then re-elected the acting Chairman, Mr. Claude-Laurent Genty. The Plenary Conference of the NGO's protested solemnly against the fact that the (governmental) committee of experts on the NGO's had prepared a legal instrument concerning them, without even consulting the NGO's. They also requested to be consulted by committees of governmental experts on questions on which they are in fact able to provide useful and qualified advice. Mr. Dirrig adds that for their great occasions, like big international conferences, the NGO's could appeal to a European deputy to act as honorary president or to inaugurate the sessions. Mr. Dirrig has the list of deputies in his possession.

Piet F.M. Fontaine
Amsterdam